

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) A method of controlling the use of a weapon having a receiver and a processor secured thereto, said method including the steps of:

transmitting from an identification unit that is separate from the weapon, an activation code and a continuous signal after the activation code is transmitted;

receiving with ~~at~~ the receiver ~~attached to the weapon~~ the activation code and then the continuous signal transmitted by the identification unit;

monitoring the receiver with ~~at~~ the processor attached to the weapon and, with the processor, placing the weapon in an active state if the receiver receives the activation code;

after said step of placing the weapon in the active state, with the processor, monitoring the strength of the continuous signal;

maintaining the weapon in the active state only if the strength of the continuous signal monitored by the processor is at or above a minimum signal strength, regardless of a frequency of the continuous signal or either the presence or absence of the activation code, to avoid a deactivation of the readiness of the weapon to fire by an interfering transmitter, and

deactivating the weapon with the processor if the strength of the continuous signal falls below the minimum strength.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 7, wherein:

    prior to said steps of transmitting the activation code and the continuous signal from the identification unit, entering into the identification unit an identification code;

    with the identification unit, comparing the entered identification code to an identification code in the identification unit; and

    only if the entered identification code is the same as the identification code in the identification unit, performing said steps of transmitting the activation code and the continuous signal from the identification unit.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 8, wherein, in said step of entering the identification code into the identification unit, the identification unit reads biometric data from an individual.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 8, wherein, said step of entering the identification code into the identification unit is performed by reading fingerprint data for an individual into the identification unit through a fingerprint reader attached to the identification unit.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 8, wherein, said step of entering the identification code into the identification unit is performed by reading fingerprint data for an individual into the identification unit through a CCD fingerprint reader attached to the identification unit.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 8, wherein:

a wristband is attached to the identification unit for holding the identification unit to an individual and the identification unit includes a switch for indicating if the wristband is closed; and

the identification unit includes an identification unit processor for performing said step of comparing the entered identification code to the identification code in the identification unit and the switch is connected to the identification unit processor for actuating the identification unit processor only when the wristband is closed.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 8, wherein the continuous signal comprises a radio signal transmitted by the identification unit and received by the receiver; and

said step of monitoring the strength of the continuous signal is performed by monitoring the strength of the radio signal.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 7, wherein the continuous signal comprises a radio signal transmitted by the identification unit and received by the receiver; and

said step of monitoring the strength of the continuous signal is performed by monitoring the strength of the radio signal.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 7, wherein the activation code and the continuous signal are selected from a group consisting of infrared signals and ultrasound signals.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 7, wherein the continuous signal comprises an uncoded signal.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 7, including, after the weapon is in the active state, transmitting a readiness signal from the weapon to the identification unit and displaying the state of readiness of the weapon on the identification unit.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling the use of a weapon comprising the steps of:

providing an identification unit that is separate from the weapon, the identification unit including a transmitter having a transmitting antenna and an identification mechanism;

providing a module on the weapon comprising a receiver having a receiving antenna and a processor, said module being free from a transmitter;

detecting an authorized user with the identification mechanism to authorize operation of the identification unit;

transmitting from the identification unit using the transmitter and the transmitting antenna, upon detecting an authorized user, an activation signal including an activation code followed by an uncoded signal;

using the receiver having the receiving antenna to detect the activation signal and the uncoded signal;

placing the weapon in an active state upon receipt of the activation code with the activation signal;

maintaining the weapon in the active state when the uncoded signal is at or above a minimum strength even if a

frequency received by the receiving antenna is independent of a frequency of the uncoded signal and an interference signal is received; and

deactivating the weapon if the strength of the uncoded signal is less than the minimum strength.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 20, wherein the uncoded signal comprises an uncoded continuous RF signal and the activation signal comprises an RF signal.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon Claim 20, the module including a wake-up circuit for the steps of:

activating the processor when the receiver receives the activation signal, and

deactivating the processor when the received signal has a signal strength less than the minimum signal strength.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 20, wherein the identification unit is integrated into a wristband, and the identification unit includes a switch for indicating if the wristband is closed, the identification unit detecting an authorized user and transmitting the activation signal followed by the uncoded signal to place and maintain the weapon in the active state only when the wristband is closed.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 20, wherein both the activation signal and the uncoded signal consist of one of infrared energy and ultrasound energy.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 20, including the step of displaying the name or the picture of the authorized user on the identification mechanism.

27-28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) A method of controlling the use of a weapon having a receiver and a processor attached thereto, the method comprising:

transmitting from an identification unit that is separate from the weapon, a transmitted signal that comprises an activation code and a continuous signal after the activation code;

receiving at the receiver the transmitted signal from the identification unit;

monitoring the transmitted signal received by the receiver with the processor and, with the processor, placing the weapon in an activated state if the received signal includes the activation code;

after placing the weapon in the activated state, monitoring strength of the received signal with the processor;

maintaining the weapon in the activated state if the strength of the received signal monitored by the processor is at or above a minimum signal strength, regardless of frequency of the received signal or the presence or absence of the activation code in the received signal;

avoiding a deactivation of the weapon from the activated state by a potential interfering signal from an interfering transmitter provided that the strength of the received signal is at or above a minimum signal strength; and

deactivating the weapon with the processor if the strength of the received signal falls below the minimum signal strength.

30. (New) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 29, wherein avoiding deactivation of the weapon from the activated state occurs such that the strength of the received signal includes field strength of the potential interfering signal from the interfering transmitter.

31. (New) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 29, further comprising:

displaying at the identification unit the name or the picture of an authorized user of the weapon.

32. (New) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 29, wherein the continuous signal comprises an uncoded continuous RF signal and the activation code comprises an RF signal.

33. (New) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 29, wherein both the activation code and the continuous signal consist of one of infrared energy and ultrasound energy.